GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1662
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
NUCLEAR TEST BY PAK
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government`s attention has been drawn to a report dated May 24, 2000 emanating from Washington that Pakistan is making preparations for another nuclear test;

(b) if so, whether the Government have obtained details of the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the Government`s reaction thereto;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the United States in the context of its likely impact on the security environment in South Asia; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b), (c) Yes Sir. Government has seen press reports regarding a possible nuclear test by Pakistan. Government has also noted that these reports were denied by Pakistani officials and termed as not credible by the US State Department spokesman.

(d) Government closely monitors all developments related to Pakistan`s nuclear weapons programme. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India`s security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perception.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.